

## Preface:

“Scorched Earth” is just one of various stories, written by Cheryl R Molinar. It has specific purposes for the author, but may be inferred accordingly, as the reader perceives it.

African countries “scorch” or burn the grasslands for a couple of reasons. One reason is to create fire-barriers against forest fires that ravage the lands during the dry winter months. The other reason is to kill off tall, dry, dangerous grasses & weeds, and to kill off any possible disease-carrying mites & ticks. The fires will rather augment and fertilise the soil, miraculously bringing forth new enriched growths with the first rains. It is rather incredible to witness the swiftness to which the earth recovers. No different to Man, when his soul has been through the fires of adversity, he is refreshed and transformed, enriched and empowered, glorifying His Lord when drenched with the rains of His Promises and His Word.

The metaphors are clear: Scorched Earth = World today; Lion = Power & Rulership; Child = Innocence; Blood = Freedom & Security; Family = Divine Establishment

## Author’s Note:

When I first sat down to write, I had no idea this was the vein in which this story would take. In fact, it surprised even me upon reading the first couple of paragraphs that were rather graphic and gruesome. However, this is not some imagination of a writer, but true facts unfolding before our very eyes as we watch and read the News from around the world. Wars, plagues, death and suffering are everywhere; as has always been since time immemorial. *Genesis 6:5: The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.* *1Peter 5:9b: ....because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

As I continued to write however, the story opened up to show how even in the most severe adversities of Life, God’s Grace flows out abundantly and endlessly. And especially, it should be noted that whatever Man or Satan may choose for evil, God will turn it to His Good!! This was my reason for writing this “story”; the Hope & Confidence, the Freedom & Security, the Peace & Happiness that Man seeks for so desperately, can only come from God!

*1Peter 5:10: And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

*2Corinthians 1:3-4: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; Who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

*Psalms 119: 71: It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Thy statutes.*

*Psalms 118:23: The Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.*

*Ecclesiastes 7:14: When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. (Nothing happens by accident!)*

CRM;  
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# SCORCHED EARTH

The earth was scorched, the trees drooped low in distress, and from their leaves no moisture could be pressed. The sun blazed down as the lion laboriously pursued its prey, its ribs visible, clarifying his weakening condition. Its hunger pushed him on, but the heat and his weakness would finally win the day. The king of the jungle would not be roaring that night.

The orphaned child cried as he lay in his mother's lifeless arms, his father gasping, as blood drained from his wounds; his sister raped and in mental shutdown. A massacre had occurred, and the vultures cried out as they circled the ravages of hostility. For warring tribes had struck again in futile enmity, miserably spreading terror and suffering like an angry, erupting volcano. Thus, plagues filled their veins, sucking away the very life-blood of its people.

As drought and floods, fire and tsunamis, hate and wars brought devastation and fear to a land already parched and desolate, its people wondered, where was love and could there ever be peace and reconciliation? No home, no land, to call one's own, as through the scorched earth they wandered with no purpose of soul apart to survive another day. Some wished death would overcome them, taking them sooner rather than later.

The clink of glasses, the dazzle of diamonds, the flamboyance and opulence flaunted unashamedly. Their god was finance; their food was success; their lives were self-indulgent. Then out of the skies, terror roared in, scoring on sumptuous soil, impaling the heart of its citizens with fear and consternation. Financial, Military and Government Institutions almost brought to its knees. Churches overflowed with anguished souls, fleeing to the only known Refuge of security and comfort it could muster. Yet today, those same churches now lie empty; void of Truth but filled with emotion. Today, the "twin towers" of fear and terror remain; constant threats that hang over their heads like the Sword of Damocles. The people cry out, blaming their Leaders, Government and anything they feel that has "wronged" their lives, taking away their freedoms and security, bringing them so low that they lack the courage to stand up; tears of self-pity blinding them to the real source of their problem.

**Commodore Perry (War of 1812): "We have met the enemy and it is us!"**

**An African Proverb: "When there is no enemy within, the enemy outside cannot hurt you."**

**President Lincoln: "If ever America should fall to an enemy, it will not be to an enemy from without but to an enemy from within."**

Was this God's Justice or was this His Love, demonstrated in some *inexplicable* manner? Could either be defined in such ghastliness of life, where purpose and meaning were snatched at the jaws of death and hell?

How is God's Love demonstrated, or at best, explained to those going through such graphic illustrations as presented above? How does one explain that God is a God of Love who came to this earth to save mankind, when all around is death and dissoluteness?

For forty days the Son of God was tempted and tried beyond our comprehension. He hungered and thirsted in the desert alone, with no other man to comfort or protect Him. But there was *one* who went along to taunt Him! No greater personification of evil could ever be matched.

Malevolence emanated from his tongue; cruelty dripped from his fingertips; his heart was blacker and harder than granite; and with every step he took, death and destruction reigned, as the lava of ruination engulfed the world in manifested sin. He was the Ruler of this world; the great deceiver; the abomination to man and earth alike. It was Satan himself!! And Satan was Christ's adversary, in that desolate land, scorched and parched, with not even a shrub for shelter.

But that wasn't all: Through His short yet incredible ministry, Christ was ridiculed and reviled by even his own family members. Many a time the religious leaders sought to kill Him. And when He went through the worst anguish of His life, even His closest friends and disciples forsook Him. But He was here for a very specific purpose. He knew what Man would have to endure in a world ruled by this Evil One. He, God Almighty, more than any other, understood the manifestations of evil and horrors that Satan would perpetrate on this world; and if Satan had his way, all mankind would live forever with him, in the eternal fires of hell.

This was *not* what God desired for Mankind! Rather, God **loved** Mankind so much that He sent His Only, Perfect, Unique Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice for Man, to save Mankind from such condemnation and damnation! ***John 3:16 - 18!***

***John 3:16-18: For God so loved the world that He gave His only and uniquely born Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God***

***Hebrews 12:3-4: For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart. You have not yet resisted (experienced) to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin.***

He came to earth as a human being, born in a humble manger, amongst the common livestock of that day. ***John 1:14a: The Word (Jesus Christ) became flesh and made His dwelling among us.*** Raised in modesty, He took up carpentry as He continued to study and grow in strength and wisdom from the Scriptures. He knew His Mission, and He stuck to its core, even though He knew that He was to face a chapter in His life more horrific than any Man would experience or even imagine. He cried to His Father, praying, ***"Father let this Cup pass from me; but not my will but Thine be done!"*** (Matthew 26:39 & Luke 22:42). So obedient and subservient was He to His Father and His Father's Will.

At first, He was betrayed by his own disciple; then another denied Him; then He was judged by both Roman & Jewish Courts; false accusations were thrown at Him from ever quarter; He was cursed and spat upon, and no man dared speak up for Him. Christ was mercilessly tortured; dragged through the streets, forced to carry His own cross on which He would be hung; His skin stripped from His body by whips of nails tearing through His very flesh. A crown of the longest Acacia thorns was rammed into His head. Then they nailed His hands and feet to the cross and lifted Him up on the cross for all to witness "His shame." But the shame and ignominy was theirs, perpetrated by man on the Son of God Himself! This was the very "shame" that was to save them! What Man inflicted on Christ was the precise source of their Eternal Salvation. (The full story related in John chapters 18 thru 21; Matthew chapters 27 & 28; Mark chapters 14, 15 & 16; Luke chapters 22, 23 & 24).

In the six hours that He hung on the Cross, the entire sins of the world were laid on His shoulders and judged: Judged by God the Father Himself, who had to turn away from the dishonour of it all. But sin had to be judged and condemned, for God could have nothing to do with sin, whatsoever! His Son cried out in agony, **“My God My God, why have you forsaken me”** (*Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34*), as the Father turned His face away from the Son! Such intense repulsion and agony, regenerate Man would never experience.

Satan and his demonic hosts rejoiced, as Christ was taken down from the Cross and buried in the tomb. For three days and nights, He lay in the tomb, doing the work of His Father. Then on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, He rose again, triumphant in all His Glory!

What Satan & Man intends for evil, God intends for good!

*Genesis 50:20: You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

*Luke 23:47: The centurion, seeing all what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.”* (This followed Christ's death on the Cross)

For forty days, He walked, talked and fellowshiped among His loved ones, encouraging them with the Hope of Eternal Life and advising them of the Comforter that would come, following His departure to sit with His Father in Heaven. This Comforter, the Holy Spirit, would come and indwell all who **believed** in the Son of God and the work that He did for them on the Cross. It is such a simple act; a simple, miniscule, instant act of faith: **Belief!!**

Then Christ ascended up to Heaven, where He lives today in glorious splendour, sitting at the Right Hand of God the Father, awaiting His Children - all those who believe in Him.

***John 11:25-26: Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies (physically); and whoever lives and believes in me will never die (eternal life). Do you believe this?”***

***John 1:12-13: Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become Children of God, children born not of natural descent nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.***

***Romans 8:17: Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.***

It was an act of absolute Love & Grace!! For, whoever **believed** that the Man who hung on that Cross was the Son of God Himself, taking upon Himself the sins and condemnation of the entire world, he would be saved! Saved from eternal death and condemnation! Instead of death and condemnation, a believer would have eternal life to live with Christ in Heaven for all eternity; and nothing could pluck him out from the Hand of God!

***Romans 8:38-39: For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things future, nor height nor depth, nor any creature (man or angel) can separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.***

(This clarifies that just as there is nothing man can do to bring about his salvation, there is absolutely nothing that man can do to LOSE his salvation. **God does not lie! – Titus 1:2**)

***Titus 1:2: This is the faith and knowledge resting on the confidence of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time***

***Psalm 94:19: When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Thy consolations delight my soul.***

Though Satan was the “first terrorist,” accompanying and taunting Christ in His hour of need, the Holy Spirit was given to Christ to empower and protect Him! Likewise, as believers in Christ, we too can have this same power and protection, from the same Holy Spirit who indwells us.

***Romans 8:11: And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life and power to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.***

***John 14:26: The Counsellor, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.***

***Ephesians 1:19-20: His (Holy Spirit imparts) incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms.***

In addition, mankind would be given the Word of God, with all the solutions essential to living: It would be the full and completed Canon of Scripture, the very Mind of Christ!

***Hebrews 4:12: For the Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit, and the joints and the marrow, and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

***2Timothy 3:16-17: For all scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works.***

Hence, what does Man have to fear? ..... Fear itself!

***2Timothy 1: 7: For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.***

***1 John 4:4: Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world!!***

***“The more you surrender to fear, the more you perpetuate fear.***

***The more you perpetuate fear, the greater your capacity for fear.***

***The greater your capacity for fear, the more you increase the power of fear in your life.***

***The more you increase the power of fear in your life,***

***The more you live by fear and the greater becomes your failure to learn and utilize Bible doctrine.***

***The more you live by fear, the more you are intimidated by life.”***

**R. B. Thieme, Jr.**

***Ephesians 1:18: I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the Hope ( & confidence!) to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints***